

(1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) QUALIFYING NATURAL DISASTER DECLARATION.—The term “qualifying natural disaster declaration” means—

(A) a natural disaster declared by the Secretary under section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a)); or

(B) a major disaster or emergency designated by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

#### SEC. 03. RESTRICTION ON PRICE GOUGING.

(a) RESTRICTIONS.—It shall be unlawful in the United States during the period of a qualifying natural disaster declaration in the United States to increase the price of any oil or gas product more than 15 percent above the price of that product immediately prior to the declaration unless the increase in the amount charged is attributable to additional costs incurred by the seller or national or international market trends.

(b) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) ENFORCEMENT POWERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall enforce this section as part of its duties under the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(B) REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this section, the Commission shall establish procedures to permit the reporting of violations of this section to the Commission, including appropriate links on the Internet website of the Commission and the use of a toll-free telephone number for such purposes.

(2) PENALTY.—

(A) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—A violation of this section shall be deemed a felony and a person, upon conviction of a violation of this section, shall be punished by fine not exceeding \$10,000,000 if a corporation, or, if any other person, \$350,000, or by imprisonment not exceeding 3 years, or both.

(B) CIVIL PENALTY.—The Commission may impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000 for each violation of this section. For purposes of this subparagraph, each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense. Civil penalties under this subparagraph shall not exceed amounts provided in subparagraph (A).

(C) ACTION BY STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The attorney general of a State may bring a civil action for a violation of this section pursuant to section 4C of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 15c).

(d) This section becomes effective 1 day after enactment.

**SA 2144.** Mr. CORZINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3058, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 252, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following: “*Provided further*, That the Corporation shall not create a wholly owned Northeast Corridor subsidiary or transfer the Northeast Corridor infrastructure into such subsidiary unless such activities are specifically authorized by an Act of Congress.”.

**SA 2145.** Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. LOTT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3058, making appropriations for the Departments of

Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 250, line 9, beginning with “expended:” strike through line 17 on page 252 and insert “expended.”.

**SA 2146.** Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. DEMINT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3058, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 293, after line 25, add the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. The Internal Revenue Service shall provide taxpayers with free individual tax electronic preparation and filing services only through the Free File program and the Internal Revenue Service’s Taxpayer Assistance Centers and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

**SA 2147.** Mr. DEWINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3058, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 244, line 17, insert “of which \$13,679,000 shall be for the ‘New Car Assessment Program’ (including \$6,000,000, which shall remain available until September 30, 2007) and \$1,000,000 shall be for the ‘Vehicle Crash Causation Study:’” after “Highway Trust Fund”.

**SA 2148.** Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3058, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 276, after line 24, insert the following:

SEC. 1 \_\_\_\_\_. Section 127(a) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(13) ARKANSAS.—During the period beginning on the date of enactment of this paragraph and ending on September 30, 2009, the State of Arkansas may allow the operation of vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of up to 80,000 pounds for the hauling of cotton seed on Interstate Route 555 during the months of August through December to cross the St. Francis Floodway from Marked Tree to Payneway, when that route is open to traffic.”.

## NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Thursday, October 27, 2005 at 10 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony from the Administration on hurricane recovery efforts related to energy and to discuss energy policy.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Lisa Epifani 202-224-5269 or Shannon Ewan at 202-224-7555.

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2005 at 10 a.m. in Room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to evaluate and receive a status report on the Environmental Management Programs of the Department of Energy.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Clint Williamson 202-224-7556 or Steve Waskiewicz at 202-228-6195.

## AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry be authorized to conduct a business meeting during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 19, 2005 at 10 a.m. in SR-328A, Russell Senate Office Building. The purpose of this meeting will be to consider an original bill to comply with the Committee’s reconciliation instructions as contained in H. Con. Res. 95.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.